



PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

CR-101 (October 2017)
(Implements RCW 34.05.310)
Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: October 05, 2020

TIME: 2:37 PM

WSR 20-20-102

Agency: Department of Social and Health Services, Economic Services Administration

Subject of possible rule making: The department is planning to amend WAC 388-450-0185, What income deductions does the department allow when determining if I am eligible for food benefits and the amount of my monthly benefits?; WAC 388-450-0190, How does the department figure my shelter cost income deduction for basic food?; WAC 388-450-0195, Does the department use my utility costs when calculating my basic food or WASHCAP benefits?; WAC 388-478-0060, What are the income limits and maximum benefit amounts for basic food?; and other related rules as may be required.

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: RCW 74.04.005, RCW 74.04.050, RCW 74.04.055, RCW 74.04.057, RCW 74.04.500, RCW 74.04.510, RCW 74.08.090, RCW 74.08A.120

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish: Under federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program law (7 C.F.R. §§ 273.9), the department is required to use federally prescribed income eligibility standards, as revised October 1st of each year; and make annual adjustments to standard utility allowances reflecting changes in costs.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies: The United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) enforces the provisions of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as enacted in the 2008 Food and Nutrition Act. The department will amend rules that are consistent with federal statutes, regulations, and guidance. Where appropriate, the department may seek waivers of federal requirements.

The state legislature authorizes the department to administer SNAP and food assistance program for legal immigrants under RCW 74.04.500; 74.04.510; and 74.08A.120.

DSHS incorporates regulations from the federal agencies, exercises state options, and implements approved waivers of federal regulatory requirements by adopting administrative rules for food assistance programs administered under the Washington Basic Food program.

Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):

- ☐ Negotiated rule making
- ☐ Pilot rule making
- ☐ Agency study

☒ Other (describe) DSHS welcomes the public to take part in developing the rules. Anyone interested should contact the staff person identified below. At a later date, DSHS will file a proposal with the Office of Code Reviser with a notice of proposed rulemaking. A copy of the proposal will be sent to everyone on the mailing list and to anyone who requests a copy.

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting:

Name: Christina Barras
Address: Economic Services Administration
Community Services Division
P.O. Box 45470
Olympia, WA 98504-5470
Phone: 360-725-4640
Fax: 360-725-4905
TTY:
Email: BarraCM@dshs.wa.gov
Web site:
Other:

(If necessary)
Name: Carolyn Horlor
Address: Economic Services Administration
Community Services Division
P.O. Box 45470
Olympia, WA 98504-5470
Phone: 360-725-4610
Fax: 360-725-4905
TTY:
Email: HorloCB@dshs.wa.gov
Web site:
Other:

Additional comments:

Date: October 5, 2020

Name: Katherine I. Vasquez

Title: DSHS Rules Coordinator

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Katherine I. Vasquez", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.